

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for publishing content, the method comprising:  
  
receiving a selection of content from a user;  
  
receiving a request to publish the selected content from the user; and  
  
supplying metadata and a rights specification to a distributor in response to the request from the user to publish the content.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes data describing and identifying the content.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a content identifier, a title, an author's name, a publisher's name, a publication date, an image and a description of the content.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the content identifier is at least one of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), and a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the rights specification includes at least one of the rights to print, view, play, extract, and export.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the metadata.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating the metadata comprises receiving information from the user.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating the metadata is based upon a user profile.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating the metadata is based upon default metadata.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating the metadata is based upon at least one inference rule.
11. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of generating the metadata is based upon an analysis of the selected content.
12. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating the rights specification.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the rights specification is created based upon a rights template.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the rights template includes at least one usage right and a condition upon which the usage right is contingent.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein the rights specification is created based upon a user profile.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein the rights specification is created based upon a default rights specification.
17. The method of claim 12, wherein the rights specification is created based upon inference rules.
18. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of creating the rights specification is based upon an analysis of the selected content.
19. The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a publishing profile.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the publishing profile includes at least one publisher identifier and information relating to a pre-existing agreement between at least one of a publisher, a distributor and a registrar.
21. The method of claim 19, wherein the publishing profile includes information regarding at least one of a distributor and facilitator through which a certain type of content may be at least one of distributed, archived and registered.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the publishing profile is created based upon a user profile.
23. The method of claim 19 wherein the publishing profile is created based upon a default publishing profile.
24. The method of claim 19, wherein the publishing profile is created based upon at least one inference rule.
25. The method of claim 19, wherein the publishing profile is created based upon an analysis of the selected content.
26. The method of claim 1, further comprising confirming the request to publish.
27. The method of claim 1, wherein the user is a publisher.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the step of supplying comprises sending a publication notice to at least one distributor.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of supplying further comprises receiving a response from the at least one distributor.
30. The method of claim 29, further comprising packaging the content for the distributor if the response from the at least one distributor indicates that the distributor wants to distribute the content.
31. The method of claim 1, wherein the user is the distributor.
32. The method of claim 1, wherein the user is a content creator.
33. The method of claim 1, further comprising packaging the content.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a distributor.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of packaging comprises storing the content to at least one of a storage and a distribution media.
36. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of packaging comprises encrypting the content.
37. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of packaging comprises sending the content to a content repository.
38. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering the content.
39. The method of claim 38, wherein the step of registering comprises forwarding at least one of metadata, a record of published content, a content identifier, the rights specification and marketing information to a registrar.
40. The method of claim 1, further comprising registering the transaction of supplying.
41. The method of claim 40, wherein the step of registering the transaction comprises storing transaction information in a transaction database.
42. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of supplying comprises:  
  
preparing a notice that includes the metadata and rights specification; and  
  
sending the notice to the distributor.
43. The method of claim 1, further comprising using at least one distributor business rule to determine whether the distributor wants to distribute the selected content and wherein the supplying is based upon the determination.
44. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response from the distributor and wherein the supplying is based upon the response.
45. The method of claim 1, further comprising updating a distributor catalog based upon the metadata and rights specification.

46. The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying one of the metadata and rights specification based upon a distributor business rule.

47. A system for publishing content, the system comprising:

a content database storing at least one content; and

a processor in communication with the content database and responsive to a request to publish the content via a user interface to supply metadata and a rights specification regarding the content to at least one distributor.

48. The system of claim 47, further comprising a metadata database storing the metadata.

49. The system of claim 47, wherein the metadata includes data describing and identifying the content.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a content identifier, a title, an author's name, a publisher's name, a publication date, an image and a description of the content.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein the content identifier is at least one of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI), and a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).

52. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the metadata based upon default metadata.

53. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the metadata based upon inference rules.

54. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the metadata based upon an analysis of the content.

55. The system of claim 47, further comprising a user database storing at least one user profile.
56. The system of claim 55, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the metadata based upon the at least one user profile.
57. The system of claim 47, wherein the rights specification includes at least one of the rights to print, view, play, extract and export.
58. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the rights specification.
59. The system of claim 58, wherein the processor generates the rights specification based upon a default rights specification.
60. The system of claim 58, wherein the processor generates the rights specification based upon a user input.
61. The system of claim 58, wherein the processor generates the rights specification based upon inference rules.
62. The system of claim 58, wherein the processor generates the rights specification by analyzing the content.
63. The system of claim 58, further comprising a rights template database storing at least one rights template.
64. The system of claim 63, wherein the at least one rights template includes at least one usage right and a condition upon which the usage right is contingent.
65. The system of claim 63, wherein the processor generates the rights specification based upon the at least one rights template
66. The system of claim 47, further comprising a user database storing at least one user profile.

67. The system of claim 66, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the rights specification based upon the at least one user profile.
68. The system of claim 47, further comprising a publishing profile database storing at least one publishing profile.
69. The system of claim 68, wherein the publishing profile includes at least one publisher identifier and information relating to a pre-existing agreement between at least one of a publisher, a distributor and a registrar.
70. The system of claim 68, wherein the publishing profile includes information regarding at least one of a distributor and facilitator through which a certain type of content may be at least one of distributed, archived and registered.
71. The system of claim 68, further comprising a user database storing at least one user profile, and wherein the processor is responsive to the request to select the at least one publishing profile based upon the at least one user profile.
72. The system of claim 68, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the rights specification based upon the at least one publishing profile.
73. The system of claim 68, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to generate the metadata based upon the at least one publishing profile.
74. The system of claim 47, further comprising a publishing profile database and wherein the processor is responsive to the request to generate a publishing profile based upon a default publishing profile and to store the generated publishing profile in the publishing profile database.
75. The system of claim 47, further comprising a publishing profile database and wherein the processor is responsive to the request to generate a publishing profile based upon at least one inference rule and to store the generated publishing profile in the publishing profile database.

76. The system of claim 47, further comprising a publishing profile database and wherein the processor is responsive to the request to generate a publishing profile based upon an analysis of the content and to store the generated publishing profile in the publishing profile database.

77. The system of claim 47, further comprising a transaction database and wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to store transaction data in the transaction database.

78. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to user input to create the content.

79. The system of claim 78, wherein the processor is further responsive to store the content in the content database.

80. The system of claim 78, wherein the processor is further responsive to store the content in a distribution media.

81. The system of claim 47, further comprising a content repository and wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to supply the content to the content repository.

82. The system of claim 47, further comprising a rights specification database and wherein the processor supplies the rights specification to the rights specification database for storage.

83. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to supply a confirmation request and to receive a confirmation before supplying the metadata and rights specification.

84. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to supply a publication notice to the distributor.

85. The system of claim 84, wherein the publication notice includes the metadata and rights specification.



86. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to package the content.
87. The system of claim 86, wherein the processor supplies the package to the distributor.
88. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to encrypt the content.
89. The system of claim 47, wherein the processor is further responsive to the request to register the content.
90. The system of claim 89, wherein the registration comprises forwarding at least one of metadata, a record of published content, a content identifier, the rights specification and marketing information to a registrar.
91. The system of claim 47, further comprising:
- a distributor system in selective communication with the publishing system, wherein the distributor system comprises:
    - a catalog database for storing metadata and rights specifications associated with at least one content;
    - an interface for selective communication with a publishing system; and
    - a distributor processor in communication with the interface and the catalog database, wherein the processor is responsive to the supplied metadata and rights specification to determine whether to store the supplied metadata and rights specification in the catalog database.
92. The system of claim 91, wherein the distributor processor is further responsive to the supplied metadata and rights specification to modify at least one of the metadata and rights specification based upon a business rule.
93. A content distributor system comprising:

a catalog database for storing metadata and rights specifications associated with at least one content;

an interface for selective communication with a publishing system; and

a processor in communication with the interface and the catalog database, wherein the processor is responsive to a metadata and a rights specification from the publishing system to determine whether to store the supplied metadata and rights specification in the catalog database.

94. The system of claim 93, further comprising a business rules database storing at least one business rule, wherein the processor determines whether to store the metadata and rights specification based upon the at least one business rule.

95. The system of claim 93, wherein the processor is responsive to a positive determination to store the metadata and rights specification in the catalog database.

96. The system of claim 95, wherein the processor is further responsive to a positive determination to modify the metadata and rights specification based upon the at least one business rule.

97. The system of claim 93, further comprising:

a consumer interface in communication with the processor; and

a consumer database in communication with the processor, wherein the consumer database stores at least one consumer profile.

98. The system of claim 93, further comprising a transaction database in communication with the processor, wherein the processor is responsive to the metadata and rights specification from the publishing system to store at least one transaction record in the transaction database.

99. An information storage media comprising information that publishes content, the information comprising:

information that receives a selection of content from a user;

information that receives a request to publish the selected content from the user; and

information that supplies metadata and a rights specification to a distributor in response to the request from the user to publish the content.

100. The media of claim 99, wherein the metadata includes data describing and identifying the content.

101. The media of claim 100, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a content identifier, a title, an author's name, a publisher's name, a publication date, an image and a description of the content.

102. The media of claim 101, wherein the content identifier is at least one of an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN).

103. The media of claim 99, wherein the rights specification includes at least one of the rights to print, view, play, extract and export.

104. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that generates the metadata.

105. The media of claim 104, wherein the information generates the metadata based upon information received from a user.

106. The media of claim 104, wherein the information generates the metadata based upon a user profile.

107. The media of claim 104, wherein the information generates the metadata based upon default metadata.

108. The media of claim 104, wherein the information generates the metadata based upon at least one inference rule.

109. The media of claim 104, further comprising: information that analyzes the selected content, and wherein the information generates the metadata based upon the results of the analysis.

110. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that creates the rights specification. .

111. The media of claim 110, wherein the information that creates the rights specification comprises information that creates the rights specification based upon a rights template.

112. The method of claim 111, wherein the rights template includes at least one usage right and a condition upon which the usage right is contingent.

113. The media of claim 110, wherein the information that creates the rights specification comprises information that creates the rights specification based upon a user profile.

114. The media of claim 110, wherein the information that creates the rights specification comprises information that creates the rights specification based upon a default rights specification.

115. The media of claim 110, wherein the information that creates the rights specification comprises information that creates the rights specification based upon inference rules.

116. The media of claim 99, further comprising:

information that analyzes the selected content; and

information that creates the rights specification based upon the analysis.

117. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that creates a publishing profile.

118. The media of claim 117, wherein the publishing profile includes at least one publisher identifier and information relating to a pre-existing agreement between at least one of a publisher, a distributor and a registrar.

119. The media of claim 117, wherein the publishing profile includes information regarding at least one of a distributor and facilitator through which a certain type of content may be at least one of distributed, archived and registered.

120. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that creates a publishing profile .

121. The media of claim 120, wherein the information that creates the publishing profile comprises information that creates the publishing profile based upon a user profile.

122. The media of claim 120, wherein the information that creates the publishing profile comprises information that creates a publishing profile based upon a default publishing profile.

123. The media of claim 120, wherein the information that creates the publishing profile comprises information that creates a publishing profile based upon at least one inference rule.

124. The media of claim 99, further comprising:

information that analyzes the selected content; and

information that creates a publishing profile based upon the results of the analysis.

125. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that confirms the request to publish.

126. The media of claim 99 wherein the information that supplies comprises information that sends a publication notice to at least one distributor.

127. The media of claim 126, further comprising information that receives a response to the notice from the at least one distributor.

128. The media of claim 127, further comprising information that packages the content for the distributor if the response from the at least one distributor indicates that the distributor wants to distribute the content.

129. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that packages the content.

130. The media of claim 129, wherein the information that packages the content comprises information that sends the content to a distributor.

131. The media of claim 129, wherein the information that packages the content comprises information that stores the content in at least one of a storage and a distribution media.

132. The media of claim 129, wherein the information that packages the content comprises information that encrypts the content to a distributor.

133. The media of claim 129, wherein the information that packages the content comprises information that sends the content to a content repository.

134. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that registers the content.

135. The media of claim 134, wherein the information that registers the content comprises information that forwards at least one of metadata, a record of published content, a content identifier, the rights specification and marketing information to a registrar.

136. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that registers the transaction of supplying.

137. The media of claim 134, wherein the information that registers the transaction comprises information that stores the transaction information in a transaction database.

138. The media of claim 99, wherein the information that supplies comprises:

information that prepares a notice that includes the metadata and rights specification; and

information that sends the notice to the distributor.

139. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that uses at least one distributor business rule to determine whether the distributor wants to distribute the selected content and wherein the information that supplies comprises information that bases the supplying upon the determination.

140. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that receives a response from the distributor and wherein the information that supplies comprises information that bases the supply upon the response.

141. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that updates a distributor catalog based upon the metadata and rights specification.

142. The media of claim 99, further comprising information that modifies one of the metadata and rights specification based upon a distributor business rule.